

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 21-25. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of these claims. On page 1 of the Office Action, claims 8, 11, 14, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,479,516 to Hunter ("Hunter").

By this amendment, Applicant proposes to cancel claims 8 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer, and to amend claims 14, 17, and 20. Applicant further proposes to add new dependent claims 26-29. The originally filed specification, drawings, and claims fully support the subject matter of amended claims 14, 17, and 20 and new claims 26-29. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 14, 17, and 20. Hunter does not disclose the features recited in claims 14, 17, and 20. For example, amended claim 14 recites "a housing, a first portion of the housing being configured to receive a medicinal product to be injected." Also, amended claim 17 recites, for example, the step of "providing a housing, the housing including a first portion and a second portion, the first portion being configured to receive a cartridge containing a medicinal product to be injected." Further, amended claim 20 recites, for example, the step of "providing a housing having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion of the housing being configured to receive a cartridge containing a medicinal product to be dispensed." As set forth in the Office Action, Hunter discloses a toothbrush, which does not include a housing having a first portion configured to receive "a medicinal product to be injected" as recited in claim 14, "a cartridge containing a medicinal product to be injected" as required by claim 17, or "a cartridge containing a medical product to be dispensed" as

required by claim 20. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection based on Hunter.

Additionally, Applicant proposes to add new dependent claims 26-29 to further define the claimed subject matter. Each of these proposed new dependent claims is directed to subject matter similar to subject matter that the Examiner has already considered.

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 14, 17, 20, and 26-29 in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that the proposed amendments of claims 14, 17, and 20 and proposed new claims 26-29 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully points out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicant's invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicant to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicant submits that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art

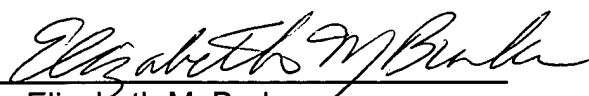
references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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